REMARKS

The last Office Action has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1, 3, 5 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to Yoke.

Claims 1, 3-4, 5, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to Nakamura.

Claims 1, 3-4 and 5 and 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to Kusasse.

Also, claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112.

With the present Amendment applicants have amended claim 1, the broadest claim on file, to more clearly distinguish the present invention from the prior art.

Claim 1 has been amended to define that the pole gap closure 55 has axial regions 61 having two peripheral sides, wherein each of the

peripheral sides has a recess 67 formed therein, and projections 64 are fitted into the recesses 67.

The Examiner's analysis of the present invention has been gratefully acknowledged. The Examiner indicated in his response to arguments that the language which is now introduced in claim 1 would make the applicant's arguments likely persuasive. This language has been now introduced in claim 1 exactly as suggested by the Examiner.

It is therefore believed that claim 1 should be considered by the Examiner. It is therefore believed the claim 1 should be considered as patentably distinguishing over the art and should be allowed.

Claim 2 has been amended so as to remove from this claim the part which has been introduced into claim 1.

With respect to claim 5 the Examiner indicated that the expression "infinitely graduated fashion" is not clear. It is respectfully submitted that the transition shown in Figure 2 and the transition shown in Figure 4 is clearly made in infinitely graduated fashion. In Figure 2 the transition is practically an unnoticeable (stepless) transition between the pole

gap closure 55 and the poles 28. In Figure 4 the transition is also an infinitely graduated or stepless transition, since it is performed without a stair-like jump in the surface, since here in particular the pole protrusions 82 allow a stepless transition. The pole transitions 82 can be formed as inclines or roundings, such as for example shown in Figure 2. It is believed that the language of claim 5 should be considered as definite.

In view of the above presented remarks and amendments, it is respectfully requested to allow the present application.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,

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